request for information to update a list of drug and biologic products that contain intentionally introduced mercury compounds, e.g., phenylmercuric acetate, phenylmercuric nitrate, and thimerosal. This request is part of the implementation of the Food and Drug Administration Modernization Act of 1997 (FDAMA).

**DATES:** Submit written and electronic comments and information by April 4, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments to the Dockets Management Branch (HFA–305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852. Submit electronic comments to *http://www.fda.gov/dockets/ecomments.*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gerald M. Rachanow, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (HFD–560), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301–827–2222.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### I. Background

FDAMA (Public Law 105–115) was enacted on November 21, 1997. Section 413 of FDAMA entitled ''Food and Drug Administration Study of Mercury Compounds in Drugs and Food'' required FDA to: (1) Compile a list of drugs and foods that contain intentionally introduced mercury compounds, and (2) provide a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the mercury compounds in this list. The statute did not differentiate whether the mercury compound was present in the products as an active or an inactive ingredient and required FDA to compile the list and provide the analysis within 2 years after the date of its enactment. FDA prepared this list and announced its availability in the **Federal Register** of November 19, 1999 (64 FR 63323).

### II. Request for Information

The agency is aware that some manufacturers or distributors with products on the list have reformulated their products since 1999. Accordingly, the agency would like to update the list to delete any products that no longer contain mercury ingredients. The agency is requesting any affected manufacturer or distributor with a product(s) on the list that no longer contains mercury to send an acknowledgement to the agency [to Docket No. 98N–1109] stating that the product(s) has been reformulated to no longer contain mercury. The agency will compile this information and announce the availability of an updated list in a future issue of the **Federal Register**.

The agency wishes to assure that it has a copy of the revised labeling for any product that has been reformulated. Part 207 (21 CFR part 207) entitled ''Registration of Producers of Drugs and Listing of Drugs in Commercial Distribution'' provides that owners or operators of drug establishments that engage in the manufacture, preparation, propagation, compounding, or processing of a drug or drugs register and submit a list of every drug in commercial distribution (§ 207.20(a)). Owners or operators of establishments that distribute under their own label or trade name a drug manufactured or processed by a registered establishment may submit listing information directly to FDA and obtain a labeler code (§ 207.20(b)). Registrants are required to provide a copy of all current labeling for each new drug (§ 207.25(b)(2)) and human prescription drug that is not a new drug (§ 207.25(b)(4)), and a copy of the label for each human over-the-counter drug listed that is not a new drug (§ 207.25(b)(5)). Information about inactive ingredients in the product is requested but not required (§ 207.31(b)).

Owners and operators of all registered establishments are required to update their drug listing information every June and December (§ 207.21(b)). The updated information includes listing each drug for which commercial distribution has been discontinued or for which any material change has occurred in any information previously submitted (e.g., reformulation) (§ 207.30(a)(2) and (a)(4), respectively). The agency is requesting that any manufacturers or distributors who have reformulated their products to remove the mercury ingredients update their labeling in accordance with part 207. These submissions should be highlighted with the words ''Mercury List'' on the envelope. The submission of information to FDA under part 207 is an approved collection of information under the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number 0910–0045 entitled ''Registration of Producers of Drugs and Listing of Drugs in Commercial Distribution,'' which expires July 31, 2004.

Affected manufacturers or distributors should submit the acknowledgement information to the Dockets Management Branch (see **ADDRESSES**). Two copies of all written information are to be submitted. Anyone submitting information electronically may submit one copy. Comments are to be identified with the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document. A copy of the list and received comments may be seen in the Dockets Management Branch between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

### III. Electronic Access

The list is entitled ''Mercury in Drug and Biologic Products'' and is available on the Internet at *http://www.fda.gov/cder/fdama/mercury300.htm.*

Dated: January 15, 2003.

**Margaret M. Dotzel,**

*Assistant Commissioner for Policy.*

[FR Doc. 03–2378 Filed 1–31–03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4160–01–S**

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Food and Drug Administration

**[Docket No. 98D–0834]**

## Draft Guidance for Industry on Labeling for Noncontraceptive Estrogen Drug Products for the Treatment of Vasomotor Symptoms and Vulvar and Vaginal Atrophy Symptoms—Prescribing Information for Health Care Providers and Patient Labeling; Availability

**AGENCY:** Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing the availability of a draft guidance for industry entitled ''Labeling Guidance for Noncontraceptive Estrogen Drug Products for the Treatment of Vasomotor Symptoms and Vulvar and Vaginal Atrophy Symptoms—Prescribing Information for Health Care Providers and Patient Labeling.'' The draft guidance is intended to assist applicants in developing labeling for new drug applications for such drug products. This is the second draft of the guidance, which initially issued in September 1999.

**DATES:** Submit written or electronic comments on the draft guidance by April 4, 2003. General comments on agency guidance documents are welcome at any time.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written requests for single copies of the draft guidance to the Division of Drug Information (HFD–240), Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857. Send one self-addressed adhesive label to assist that office in processing your requests. Submit written comments on the draft guidance to the Dockets Management Branch (HFA–305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm.

1061, Rockville, MD 20852. Submit electronic comments to *http://www.fda.gov/dockets/ecomments.* See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for electronic access to the draft guidance document.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Margaret Kober, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (HFD–580), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301–827–4243.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

## I. Background

FDA is announcing the availability of a draft guidance for industry entitled ''Labeling Guidance for Noncontraceptive Estrogen Drug Products for the Treatment of Vasomotor Symptoms and Vulvar and Vaginal Atrophy Symptoms—Prescribing Information for Health Care Providers and Patient Labeling.'' The draft guidance describes the recommended labeling for health care providers and patient instructions for inclusion in new drug applications (NDAs). A draft of this guidance was first issued in September 1999 (64 FR 52100). However, on September 10, 2002, the agency withdrew the draft guidance (67 FR 57432), pending consideration of the results from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Women's Health Initiative (WHI).[1] This second draft reflects the agency's thinking after considering the results of the WHI substudy.

In the WHI substudy, postmenopausal women who took conjugated estrogen 0.625 milligram (mg) combined with medroxyprogesterone acetate 2.5 mg had higher risks of several serious adverse events relative to those women who took placebo. Conjugated estrogens alone also increased the rates of cardiovascular disease compared to placebo. Other doses of conjugated estrogens and medroxyprogesterone acetate and other combinations of estrogens and progestins were not studied in the WHI. However, in the absence of comparable data, the risks of serious adverse events should be assumed to be similar because other studies show that estrogens and progestins are associated with these types of events.

This second draft of the guidance reflects several changes. For example, the draft guidance provides specific labeling recommendations for two indications (moderate to severe vasomotor symptoms and moderate to severe symptoms of vulvar and vaginal atrophy). It refers sponsors to the appropriate review divisions for guidance on labeling products to treat other indications. In addition, the guidance recommends that the following additions be made to the labeling for noncontraceptive estrogen drug products for the treatment of vasomotor symptoms and symptoms of vulvar and vaginal atrophy:

- New information to the boxed warning;
- Information from the WHI, including a statement that, although only a single dose and type of estrogen and progestin were studied in the WHI, risks for serious adverse events should be assumed to be similar for other estrogens and progestins until data show otherwise;
- A statement recommending that use of estrogens should be at the lowest doses and for the shortest duration in hopes of minimizing risks;
- A revised indication for the treatment of vulvar and vaginal atrophy in women who have moderate to severe symptoms so that benefits from drug therapy may outweigh risks; and
- Information from the WHI on cardiovascular and cancer risks as well as other information from the WHI and other studies.

Finally, the new draft updates other information in the label based on current scientific studies.

This level 1 draft guidance is being issued consistent with FDA's good guidance practices regulation (21 CFR 10.115). The draft guidance represents the agency's current thinking on labeling for noncontraceptive estrogen drug products for the treatment of vasomotor symptoms and vulvar and vaginal atrophy symptoms. It does not create or confer any rights for or on any person and does not operate to bind FDA or the public. An alternative approach may be used if such approach satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations.

## II. Comments

Interested persons may submit to the Dockets Management Branch (see **ADDRESSES**) written or electronic comments regarding the draft guidance. Submit a single copy of electronic comments to http://www.fda.gov/dockets/ecomments or two hard copies of any written comments, except that individuals may submit one hard copy. Comments are to be identified with the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document. The draft guidance and received comments may be seen in the Dockets Management Branch between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

## III. Electronic Access

Persons with access to the Internet may obtain the document at either *http://www.fda.gov/cder/guidance/index.htm* or *http://www.fda.gov/ohrms/dockets/default.htm.*

Dated: January 23, 2003.

**Margaret M. Dotzel,**

*Assistant Commissioner for Policy.*

[FR Doc. 03–2377 Filed 1–31–03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4160–01–S**

[1] The results of the NIH Women's Health Initiative trial were reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 288: 321–333, 2002.

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Food and Drug Administration

**[Docket No. 03D–0001]**

### Draft Guidance for Industry on Nonclinical Safety Evaluation of Pediatric Drug Products; Availability

**AGENCY:** Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing the availability of a draft guidance for industry entitled ''Nonclinical Safety Evaluation of Pediatric Drug Products.'' The draft guidance provides recommendations on the role and timing of animal studies in the safety evaluation of therapeutics intended for the treatment of pediatric patients.

**DATES:** Submit written or electronic comments on the draft guidance by May 5, 2003. General comments on agency guidance documents are welcome at any time.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written requests for single copies of the draft guidance to the Division of Drug Information (HFD–240), Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857. Send one self-addressed adhesive label to assist that office in processing your requests. Submit written comments on the draft guidance to the Dockets Management Branch (HFA–305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852. Submit electronic comments to *http://www.fda.gov/dockets/ecomments.* See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for electronic access to the draft guidance document.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Karen Davis Bruno, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (HFD–580), Food and Drug Administration, 5600